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Training

National Smokejumper Association

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Actual size 35"x 42"

Panel 6A

TRAINING



All smokejumper trainees must be conditioned for parachute jumps into difficult wilderness terrain, fight fire for hours or days, and then hike out to the nearest road. The jumpers can be expected to carry hundreds of pounds during this "packout" and must be in top physical shape.

Once an individual meets basic requirements, their initial training involves both mental and physical screening.

Though physical training requirements change periodically, they are generally in line with those listed below:

MINIMUM SMOKEJUMPER PHYSICAL STANDARDS

Per the USFS National Smokejumper Training Guide, 2008

- 7 pull-ups or 7 chin-ups.
- 45 sit-ups
- 25 push-ups
- 1 ½ mile run in 11 minutes or less.
- Pack out – 110 pound pack for 3 miles in 90 minutes or less.
- Standard firefighting pack test for U.S. Forest Service.

Except for the packout and 1 ½ mile run, the test shall be performed during one established time period with a break of not less than 5 minutes, nor more than 7 minutes between events.

Once training officially began, smokejumper trainees learned the basics:

- Parachute training included practice jumps from the tower
- Proper landing techniques
- Proper let-down and tree climbing procedures
- How to utilize the reserve parachutes in the event the main parachute did not function properly
- All of this then led to practice jumps and training "packouts" to simulate actual fire procedures

All photos courtesy the National Smokejumper Association



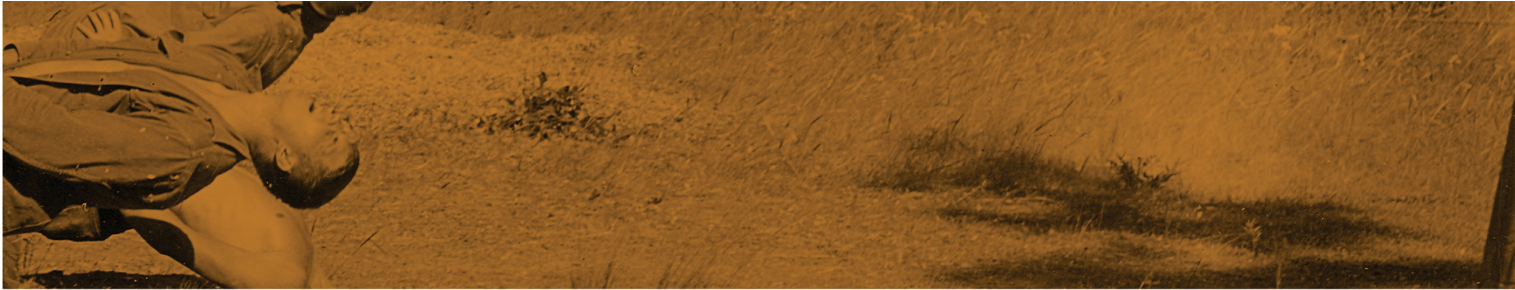
FEET TOGETHER

Throughout their training, smokejumpers learn the proper parachute jumping techniques. Ground training like this helps teach prospective jumpers the best way to land in all conditions, keeping them safe and uninjured during landing.



Actual size 35"x 42"

Panel 6B



Smokeyjumpers must be in top physical condition to withstand the rigors of the job.



Training jumps from tower simulates the sensation of a parachute drop.



In this photo, a jumper learns what to do in the event of an unexpected water landing.



Jumping into harsh terrain, smokejumpers must be prepared for a wide range of dangerous scenarios. Training on the proper use of a letdown rope ensures each smokejumper can get to the ground safely if he or she lands in a tree or other obstacle.



All smokejumpers must be proficient in climbing trees. If a jumper or cargo parachute gets caught, they must be retrieved by climbing into the tree. Climbing trees requires equipment dropped to the landing spot including climbing spurs, climbing rope, climbing belt and a Fanno hand saw. Climbing trees, some nearly 200 feet tall, is both physically and mentally challenging.